

## Ten 'oldies' and where they're likely to do the business...

As I'm sure you'd fully expect, I'm now at the stage of the season where I'm deeply engrossed in my notes, tidying them, cleaning them, binning the out of dates ones and generally just getting them ship-shape for the season ahead.

There's plenty of horses in the pile that have been on my radar for a while and I'd thought I'd send a selection of them to you for your own usage.

Some will have been highlighted by me in the '**Weekend Notes**' although some will have been added by me out with the weekend period, so there will be a handful you are possibly not familiar with.

Older horses are always susceptible to younger and unexposed improvers but the bonus with the 10yo plus horses is that we generally know a lot more about them, meaning we can get a better grasp on their 'Prime Conditions'.

There is also the chance that the wider betting population have 'given up' on them so when they do land themselves in the winners' enclosure again there's a good chance it will be at lofty-ish odds (that's the plan anyway!).

This guide isn't me saying 'these horses WILL win again and you NEED to be following them'. There's every chance they may never win another race again! But if they do, then it's likely to be under the 'Prime Conditions' I've highlighted next to their names and, as I said, hopefully at a decent price.

I'll highlight plenty of these types in the Weekend Notes section of the full service throughout the season but the ten in this guide are 'interesting' types that might just pop up somewhere along the line.

Stick 'em in your trackers (or print off the guide if that's your preferred option) and keep an eye open for them running when conditions look 'prime' for them...

## Ten oldies for your notebooks...

### SHANROE SANTOS (Mrs L Wadham) – 10yo

#### Prime Conditions

OR 132 or less | Nov-Mar | 14k or less to the winner | 2m5f+ = 6/11, 2p - all 6 career wins

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*Currently 1lb above his ceiling but a down the field seasonal debut effort (he's 0/5, 0p on seasonal debut) should see him drop down to a winnable mark. He's recorded at least one victory each of the last 4 seasons.*

### ROCK ON ROCKY (M Sheppard) – 11yo

#### Prime Conditions

G/S & softer | 2m 0.5f or less | C3 & below | OR 130 or less | Field of 9 or less | Hcp = 7/13, 3p - all 7 career wins

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*He's becoming a shade frustrating and is totalling up a bit of a losing run (13 and counting) but there was enough to like about his 3<sup>rd</sup> placed effort at Uttoxeter (6<sup>th</sup> of Oct) that suggested he should be able to take advantage of his ever sliding handicap mark before too long...*

### BELMOUNT (N Twiston-Davies) – 10yo

#### Prime Conditions

3m2f & below | 10 or less runners | C3 & below | March-Nov | OR 128 or less = 9/18, 5p - all 9 career wins

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*Had a few spins over the summer which has helped him get back to a winnable mark and he ran a decent race at Warwick on 3<sup>rd</sup> of October. NTD will get a win into him somewhere I'm sure...*

## CONAS TOI (C Williams) – 10yo

### Prime Conditions

OR 113 or less | Hcp Chases worth 10.5k or less to winner | 11 or less runners | DSLR 45 or less = 8/13, 3p - all 8 career wins.

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*A low-grade performer but Christian Williams seems to have got him ticking (finished last season with form of 2-1-3-3-3-3) and he's on a mark he can win from.*

## BUTLERGROVE KING (C Williams) – 10yo

### Prime Conditions

Handicap Chase | OR 112 or less | field of 10 or less | Good | 2m4f - 3m = 212421211 (4/9, 4p - all 4 career wins)

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*Not one that wins that often (4/30 in his career) but he's consistent when he gets his conditions. Young Jack Tudor in the saddle would be interesting as well as his claim would make things a touch easier for the aging chaser.*

## NEVER EQUALLED (B J Llewellyn) – 10yo

### Prime Conditions

Soft-Heavy | LH Hurdles | 2m4.5f or less | DSLR 30 or less = 51311212 (4/8, 2p - all 4 career wins)

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*One that loves to splash through the mud, particularly the Ffos Las mud (3 of his 4 wins have come at the track) and he can still do a job when conditions allow*

## JOHNNY OG (Miss C Dyson) – 10yo

### Prime Conditions

2m4f & below | £10.5k or less | Field of 9 or less | Not V-Undulating tracks | Sept - March = P1111151 (6/8 - all 6 career wins)

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*He's simply just been campaigned all wrong in recent starts. He needs to lead a field over 2m4f or shorter and when he gets the chance to do that he's on a fantastic mark to take full advantage...*

## GOLD OPERA (K Dagleish) – 10yo

### Prime Conditions

Hcp Chase | LH | Soft/Heavy | Field of 8 or less | DSLR 48 or less | 2m0.5f-2m5.5f = 211113141 (6/9, 1p - All 6 career wins)

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*Still more than capable of putting in a solid effort when he gets his conditions. He might just need to drop a pound or two before being full effective again but he's not far off a winning mark. Look out for him at his favourite tracks of Ayr (3 wins) & Newcastle (3 wins).*

## BIGBADJOHN (N Twiston-Davies) – 10yo

### Prime Conditions

Fields of 9 or less = 1121312171 (6/10 – all 6 career wins)

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*Doesn't ask for much does this lad! Give him a small field and he'll likely run his race.*

## VALSEUR DU GRANVAL (T George) – 10yo

### Prime Conditions

Good | Fields of 6 or less | Handicap Chases | OR 123 or less = 121111 (5/6, 1p – all 5 career wins)

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*Another oldie that enjoys the space of a small field. When this one gets his prime conditions he is almost unbeatable, with his one defeat under the above conditions coming by less than a length.*

Hopefully at least a couple of these old guys can find their way into the winners' enclosure this season. It's far from a guarantee of course but if they get prime conditions to attack then they'll at least have a fighting chance! As always, I'll be highlighting similar types (and a wide variety of other National Hunt performers) in **the WEEKEND NOTES section of the full NTF service.**

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**Ben (NTF)**

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